

Executive Registry

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The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I thought you might be interested
in the editorial from The Midland
Reporter-Telegram written by Jim
Allison, Jr., who owns the paper.

You may recall he was very active
in the Republican Party, and he has
been a big supporter of yours. Perhaps
a note to him would be in order.

Respectfully yours,


George Bush

Enclosure

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White House

Dial 682-3311

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JIM ALLISON, JR.

PUBLISHER

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Thank you, Mr. Ford

President Gerald Ford, who will relinquish his White House residency in January, as a result of a close decision on the part of the nation's voters last week, truly is a great American.

As such, and for the tremendous role he has had in reuniting the nation, Gerald Ford merits a sincere, nationwide expression of appreciation for long, faithful, dedicated service to his country — as a member of Congress, as Vice President and as President of the United States.

His overall service through the years has been noteworthy, but it has been his efficient, effective and distinguished performance as Chief Executive during his two years in the White House for which the nation is most grateful.

Please think back, if you will, to that August day in 1974 when Gerald Ford, an appointive vice president, assumed the presidency. An atmosphere of gloom prevailed nationwide. Citizens, many of whom had lost confidence in their government, were groping for stability.

It was into this not too pretty scene that Gerald Ford stepped...and it was fortunate for the United States that he was available for the assignment. He was made to order for the situation at hand — the President that America needed, as events and occurrences have proved.

Do you remember what Mr. Ford said in his inaugural address?

"My fellow Americans," he said, "our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works. Our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here, the people rule...As we bind up the internal wounds of Watergate, more painful and more poisonous than those of foreign wars, let us restore the Golden Rule to our political process. And let brotherly love purge our hearts of suspicion and hate."

Yes, this was exactly what Americans needed to hear — and they accepted the plea and the new President as a man of honor, utmost honesty and integrity.

His greatest achievement

perhaps in the days following was the restoration of respect for the presidency of the United States. Renewed faith in government followed, and the nation was on its way toward resuming its rightful place of respect and greatness at home and abroad.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe, in declaring his utmost respect for the President, said, "Most Americans, regardless of political party, fully appreciate his faithful service in Congress and the White House. He has made his mark in American history and deserves our appreciation."

We believe that this expresses the true feeling of most Americans toward President Ford and his achievements.

The President's many other accomplishments in affairs of government at home and abroad, in addition to those stemming from his personal honor, are well known to most Americans. Few presidents have had as many noteworthy achievements credited to them in such a brief period of time.

Just what the future holds for Gerald Ford is unknown, of course, but his fellow countrymen wish him well, regardless.

A West Frankfort, Ill., newspaper editor, Robert Ellis, editorially has urged Mr. Ford to seek re-election to the House of Representatives. This is not a bad idea at all.

"The respect and affection that the American people have for President Ford were made perfectly clear by the closeness of the vote Nov. 2," Ellis wrote.

He continued by saying that the patriotism, dedication and ability as displayed by President Ford during the early, difficult times of his administration need not be lost to the American public.

"There is a way Ford can continue to serve our nation," Ellis said, "and any encouragement we can give him could be a contributing factor in his decision."

Meanwhile, we join with millions of Americans in a snappy salute of appreciation and well wishes to President Gerald Ford now and always.